



## MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

**November 2020 –** Due to the continuing pandemic, the regular monthly MNS meeting for November will NOT be held. Please read the president's message on page 2 for more details. Nevertheless, we will continue to print and distribute this MNS newsletter unabated.

**President:** Justin Perrault  
**Secretary:** James Kubley  
**Sgt. at Arms:** Dave Herrewig  
**Trustee '17-'19:** Dave Hunsicker  
**Librarian:** Justin Perrault

**Vice President:** Jim Heinrich  
**Treasurer:** Chris Kantak  
**Trustee '19-'21:** Lee Hartz  
**Trustee '18-'20:** Gary Bieringer  
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***The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7 PM in the Mayfair Mall community room on the third Thursday of each month.***

**November Coin of the Month:** This month we present a 31 mm, 8.24 gram, proof white metal token, recently distributed by Penzeys Spices, a Wauwatosa firm with retail outlets in several states. It carries only the legend HUG on each side. It came attached to a small card inscribed "You are cared for/You are loved/Be as well as you can be/HUG." The token itself shows no indication of its origin or source and does not promote the Penzeys firm. The card is marked "made in China" and the word "Penzeys" appears on the back of the card. An interesting feature is that the token has the word HUG also in Braille.



### November 2020 MNS President's Message

In response to my proposal in the last newsletter regarding a club dinner/social event at Balistreri's, I literally only heard from two members that they would be willing to attend. Based on that I am going to deem the event a no-go since that certainly would not make for a very festive party. Probably for the best, as it is so difficult to make any plans these days given Milwaukee's strict gathering and masking requirements.

I am going to renew our reservation for the Mayfair Mall conference room through 2021. Their operational hours are still only through 8:00 PM so if that stays in place our meetings may have to run from 6:00-8:00 PM. First and foremost, the government needs to lift the restrictive bans on our freedom of association and stop running roughshod over our private social lives. It is simply scary and it astounds me at how rigorously the government is trying to control the private lives of perfectly healthy citizens. I am not in favor of using Zoom or any other technological means to hold a meeting. We are a social club and our purpose is to meet in person, not in a virtual setting. We will get there again soon, I hope. Given potential safety issues at the mall and in our society at large these days, I have a couple of alternate options in mind for a new meeting location, but it will be a while to see if those pan out. Until then Mayfair will continue to be our best bet.

In order to remain on the mailing list membership dues for 2021 should be sent to the Club's PO Box (see the cover page). I have already received a couple of them in the mail. Hopefully we will be able to meet again beginning with the new year. Until then, I hope that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving.

Happy Collecting,  
Justin J. Perrault  
[masters1122@yahoo.com](mailto:masters1122@yahoo.com)  
262.613.9996



# MN\$ 2020

## 2020-21 Numismatic Events

### Schedule

Monthly meetings for the duration of 2020 are tentatively cancelled. Once things return to the status quo we will again meet starting at 7:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

### Monthly meeting programs

Jan 16:	Officer Inductions
Feb 20:	"Numismatic Stories & Anecdotes" by: Andy Kimmel
March 19:	CANCELLED
April 16:	CANCELLED
May 21:	CANCELLED
June 18:	Self-Distancing Stories
July 16:	NO MEETING
Aug 20:	CANCELLED
Sept 17:	CANCELLED
Oct 15:	CANCELLED
Nov 19:	CANCELLED
Dec 17:	CANCELLED

### Annual Dues

Dues for 2021 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886.** Thanks to those who have paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the club's mailing list.

### Random Information

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, ~~and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings.~~ We are also looking for ideas for club outings. ~~MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60.~~ To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make the club a success.

Oct. 25:	Elgin Coin Club Show 495 Airport Rd. Elgin, IL (8-3 PM)
April 16-17	South Shore Coin Club Show
April 17	MNS Scout Clinic at SSCC show
April 21-24	CSNS Convention Schaumburg, IL
Aug. 10-14	ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL
Oct. 3:	MNS Coin Show at Serb Hall 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave. (9-4 PM)

### Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	John B.
Feb:	Tom R.
Mar:	<del>Dave Hunsicker</del>
Apr:	<del>Jordan H.</del>
May:	<del>Adele &amp; Norm V.</del>
Jun:	OPEN
Jul:	NO MEETING
Aug:	<del>Justin P.</del>
Sep:	NO MEETING
Oct:	NO MEETING
Nov:	NO MEETING
Dec:	NO MEETING



## Ken Kantak and the Monroe Wooden Nickel

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Ken Kantak. I remember him from the days when our club had meetings at the War Memorial Building on the lake front. Most of our present members will not have known him, however he was a very likeable person and will be missed.

Remembering those days back in 1964, Ken traveled to Monroe, Wisconsin for a very unusual event. In 1963-64 there was a coin shortage developing with the thought that coin roll collectors were the blame. To help alleviate the coin shortage situation in that community, in February of 1964, the First National Bank of Monroe issued 20,000 wooden nickels. Residents and merchants of the city could obtain the wooden nickels to circulate as money and at any time could turn them in to the bank for cash.

The United States Treasury frowned upon this venture of the bank issuing its own money. Since there is a law against anyone making their own money, the Treasury officials moved in and confiscated all the remaining nickels which amounted to only less than 500. The story of the Monroe Wooden Nickel was carried on the National News Services and received wide publicity. Needless to say, not too many were redeemed. At the time the nickel had reached values by collectors of \$5 to \$15.

Ken brought those wooden nickels back to the club meeting and handed them out before the Treasury got involved. Thanks to Ken, I still have my nickel.

Dave Hunsicker



## LIBRARY DONATION HELPS RESEARCHERS AND YN'S

MNS member **Bruce Benoit** made a kind gesture recently to help out fellow researchers and bibliophiles Richard Kelly & Nancy Oliver. Earlier articles described how they lost their home and numismatic library in a horrific wildfire. Bruce sent them a shipment of books, and has still more to donate to new collectors or clubs who can make use of them.

In early August of 2020, I contacted Richard Kelly and Nancy Oliver of Roseville, California to offer my numismatic library. Richard and Nancy have written many fine articles for various coin related publications over many years including "The Numismatist," the monthly publication of the American Numismatic Association (ANA). I remembered reading the sad news that their home including their numismatic library was lost in the "Camp Fire" last year in Paradise, California. I was disappointed when they ceased writing articles due to this tragic event. My library has been sitting in boxes since my last move and figured that they could use some help in re-building their library. Richard and Nancy were very grateful for my offer and asked if I could put together an inventory of the books and send that to them. This way they would not receive any duplicate titles that they already had replaced, or received from other donations since the fire. I complied and created an electronic inventory of just under 100 titles.



**Bruce Benoit and his books**



**Richard Kelly & Nancy Oliver (look closely!) with their new books**

I remembered seeing an advertisement for the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS) in *The Numismatist* publication, and also for some time have enjoyed reading their weekly electronic newsletter, *The E-Sylum* produced by Wayne Homren. So I contacted Wayne via e-mail to ask if the NBS would be interested in supporting this donation effort and help with the cost of shipping the books. Wayne replied that there was going to be an upcoming society board meeting and that he would make mention of it on my behalf. Later, he contacted me and told me that one of the board members has stepped up and offered to pay for the book shipment. This was great news to Richard, Nancy, and me, as I did not want to donate my library and then have to pay to ship it. The responding board members were Maria and David Fanning of Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers of Gahanna, Ohio.

When I received the list of books that Richard and Nancy would accept from my inventory I pulled them from the many boxes and prepared them for shipment. Maria was very helpful in providing me the best way to prepare and package the books to decrease the chance for damage during shipping. Once I had the books protected and packaged, all I had to do was e-mail Maria with the box sizes and weights and she e-mailed me the shipping labels to place on the boxes. The whole process was painless due to the help of Maria.

I would like to thank both Maria and David Fanning of Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers for their generosity in covering the shipping costs, and Wayne Homren at the NBS for his role in getting the word out. I really hope that both Richard and Nancy will enjoy the books that I have donated and that they assist them with their research to write future articles that I and many others enjoy reading.

Richard Kelly and Nancy Oliver write:

"To all,

"Yesterday afternoon (Wednesday, August 26th) we received all 18 numismatic related books donated to us from Bruce Benoit of Waupaca, Wisconsin. They were well packaged and all arrived in good order. The books are a very welcome addition to our research library, and each and every one will be placed in prominent places within our renewed assemblage. Several holes that have existed in our collection have now been filled.

"We thank Bruce and Kathy Benoit, Maria and David Fanning, and Wayne Homren for their generosity, time and efforts in this endeavor. Best to all and may all be safe,

"Richard Kelly and Nancy Oliver"

Bruce adds: "Problem solved, right? Not quite, I still have over 75 titles of books that I would like to find loving homes for. I have books in the categories of: U.S. Coins, U.S. Paper Money, World Paper Money, Canadian Coins, Canadian Paper Money, and Tokens, both U.S. and Canada. Ideally I would like to donate the remaining books to the youth of our hobby, the future of numismatics. I will also consider any local coin clubs that are in need of starting, or expanding their libraries. All I ask is that the parties receiving the donations make arrangements for the shipping.

My contact information is: Bruce Benoit, [benwab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:benwab@sbcglobal.net)

***Editor's Comment:***

***Although Bruce no longer lives in the Milwaukee area, he remains a very active member of our club. Thank you, Bruce, for this outstanding gesture and offer. Your generosity will certainly be appreciated by the fortunate recipients.***

## THE MITCHELL MEDAL FROM MADISON

By Tom Casper

Some people achieve noteworthy accomplishments during their life and leave behind a legacy. But three people in the same family leaving legacies is most unusual. If you have lived in Wisconsin, especially in Milwaukee you are probably familiar with at least one of these three men with the surname of Mitchell.

Alexander Mitchell (1817-1887) came to Milwaukee, WI in 1839. He founded the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company and issued Certificates of Deposit, which circulated as currency. He became president of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Roadroad. In 1871 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms. At that time, he was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the state. In Milwaukee, Mitchell St., Mitchell Blvd., Mitchell Building, Mitchell School and the City of Mitchell South Dakota have been named in his honor.

Alexander's son, John Lendrum Mitchell Sr. (1842-1904) was a lieutenant in the Union Army during the Civil War and later became a Wisconsin Senator, U.S. Senator and a U.S. Representative. He donated the land for Mitchell Park in Milwaukee, named in his honor.



John's oldest son was William "Billy" Mitchell (1879-1936). He became a Brigadier General during WWI and led 1,500 allied aircraft in the air phase of the St. Mihiel offensive against Germany. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, and several foreign decorations. He was a crusader for air power which the War and Navy Departments disagreed with. He was court-martialed in 1925 but he instead resigned. In 1946 he was awarded posthumously a Congressional gold medal. He is known as the "Father of the U.S. Air Force". The Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport and the WWII B-25 Mitchell bomber are named for him.

John's second son, is John Lendrum Mitchell Jr. (1893-1918). He attended the Racine College grammar school until 1910. He then attended a number of other schools and entered the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI in 1913 and graduating in 1917 with a degree in Letters and Science. John enlisted in the U.S. Army, aviation section, Signal Reserve Corps in June, 1917. After attending the Aviation Ground School in Massachusetts, he was ordered to France. He received the commission of first lieutenant on September 29, 1917. During the time he was receiving instruction in flying he constructed two aviation fields. He was killed in an accidental fall of his American airplane over France on May 27, 1918 at Colombey-les-Belles and is buried at Thiancourt, France.

This article appeared in a 1921 UW alumni magazine. "W. M. (William Merrill) Chester of Milwaukee, a life-long friend of Lt. Mitchell, has just founded the John Lendrum Mitchell Memorial Medal. The foundation will provide for a gold medal to be awarded annually, as a prize to the member of the senior class of the University (of Wisconsin) who shall write the best essay on Industrial Relations. The medal will be executed by J.O. Legastelois, a famous French medallist, and will be the most beautiful medal awarded by the University".

Shown here is a bronze, 50 mm example of this medal weighing 66 grams. On the obverse is the engraver's name, J.P. (Jules Prosper) Legastelois. A togated male figure shaking hands with a youth whose left hand grasps a pair of dividers resting on a table. A small child stands to the left holding a book. The Roman Forum is in the background. In exergue is a Latin inscription: AD. MVTVAM.OPERAM NATI.SVMVS, meaning we were born to work together. The reverse legend reads JOHN LENDRUM MITCHELL MEMORIAL MEDAL, Born April 20, 1893, U. of W. 1917, Died in Service May 27, 1918. The center is inscribed WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY SENIOR PRIZE ESSAY ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WON BY (a blank cartouche for engraving). The edge is stamped BRONZE. A newspaper article from the Wisconsin State Journal, April 24, 1922 stated the medal would be struck at the Paris mint.

While researching this medal I was unable to locate any mention of bronze examples of this medal being struck or presented. I was able to find documentation of three of these medals being awarded. The first gold medal was presented in June, 1922 to Millie Hausmann of Madison for her thesis on the best method of compiling statistics on unemployment. On July 23, 1922 the Wisconsin State Journal ran that story including her photo.

A second example in gold appeared twice in the Presidential Coin & Antique Co. auctions in 1995 and 2001. It was issued in 1923 and was presented to William Haber in a maroon leather presentation case. A third example was awarded to Daniel L. Goldy, unknown metal content or year of issue.

It appears the foundation's program to honor John Lendrum Mitchell Jr. was short-lived. He died in a very tragic accident in the service of his country. If not for the crash, there is little doubt he would have added yet another chapter to the famed Mitchell legacy.

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Sunday,

## HOOVER REPORT TO INCLUDE MADISON GIRL'S CRITICISM

**Miss Millie Hausman's Thesis  
Criticizing Employment Stat-  
istics Methods Wins  
Gold Medal**

**M**ISS MILLIE LOUISE HAUSMANN'S criticism of methods of compiling employment statistics and her suggested method will be incorporated in the report on unemployment which Secretary Herbert Hoover's committee will make to the president.

Miss Hausman's work was done under direction of Prof. John R. Commons, department of economics, University of Wisconsin, and the state industrial commission. Her thesis, "A Criticism of Existing Employment Index Numbers with Requirements for an Ideal Index of Employment," was awarded the John Lendrum Mitchell gold medal for the best thesis on a subject dealing with industrial relations. The medal awarded for the first time this June, is given annually by William M. Chester, Milwaukee, in memory of his friend, Lt. John Lendrum Mitchell, Wisconsin, '17, who was killed while piloting an American airplane in France, May 27, 1918.

**Designed by Frenchman**

The medal was designed by J. P. Legastelois, official medalist of the French government, and bears on one side a symbolic design representing amity between capital and labor, and the Latin inscription, "Ad Mutuum operam nati sumus."—"We were born to work together." On the reverse, side is the name of Lt. Mitchell, the dates of his birth, his graduation from the university, and his death, the name



**MISS MILLIE HAUSMANN**

mann considers confusing and leading to obscurity.

The importance of collecting an accurate index of employment is emphasized by Miss Hausmann as an important part of studying the business cycle and devising means of preventing unemployment.

Miss Hausmann concludes that employment figures must be gathered regularly by an official governmental bureau, and must be secured from the employer rather than from labor unions, chambers of commerce, merchants' and manufacturers' associations, or any organizations.

The questionnaire should impose as little work as possible on the em-